

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A frame for a shelter structure comprising:

an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and second ends terminating in a substantially common plane; and at least one spar flexibly connected to said pole to form a flexible frame structure.

2. A flexible shelter structure comprising the flexible frame structure of claim 1 and a membrane flexibly connected to said flexible frame structure and defining a substantially sheltered space.

3. The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane tensions said pole and said at least one spar.

4. The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is arranged substantially transversely to said pole.

5. The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is directly connected to said pole.

6. The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is indirectly connected to said pole.

~~7. The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar has a bent shape.~~

8. The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar has a first end and a second end and wherein at least one of said first and second ends does not terminate in said common plane.

9. The frame of claim 8 wherein said at least one spar has a first end and a second end and wherein neither of said first and second ends terminates in said common plane.

10. The frame of claim 1 wherein said pole is capable of assuming a substantially arcuate shape under tension.

11. The frame of claim 10 wherein a tensioning means provides tension to said pole and said pole assumes a substantially arcuate shape.

12. The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure over said pole and said spars.

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13. The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure intermediate said pole and said spars.

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14. The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure intermediate said pole and said spars, and wherein a second membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure over said pole and said spars, thereby forming a space between said membrane and said second membrane.

~~15. The frame of claim 1 wherein said pole comprises a plurality of interconnected pole segments.~~

16. A flexible frame structure for a flexible shelter structure comprising: an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and second ends terminating in a substantially common plane; and a plurality of spars flexibly connected to said pole.

17. The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars are arranged substantially transversely to said pole.

18. The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars are directly connected to said pole.

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19. The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars are indirectly connected to said pole.

~~20. The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars is capable of assuming a substantially arcuate shape under tension.~~

21. The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars has a first end and a second end and wherein at least one of said first and second ends does not terminate in said common plane.

22. The flexible frame structure of claim 21 wherein each of said spars has a first end and a second end and wherein none of said first and second ends terminates in said common plane.

23. The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein said pole is capable of assuming a substantially arcuate shape under tension.

24. The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein said pole comprises a plurality of interconnected pole segments.

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